



# **The helmet of Major Aziz Bhatti (Shaheed),**

## **Nishan-e-Haider,**

**rests on his rifle near the spot where he fell after being hit by an Indian shell.**

**The whole nation stood united with singers, writers, intellectuals, civil bureaucracy, railway personnel, the police and students playing their due role. Ex-servicemen rushed to recruiting centers for presenting their service to fight on the front as singers galvanized the nation with patriotic songs. Shopkeepers generously donated daily use items for the soldiers fighting on the front. Pakistani women including Girl Guide movement and All Pakistan Women's Association collected funds, arranged blood donation camps and offered services to the medical corps as nursing volunteers.**

**Students and young people thronged the roadsides to provide food, water and other edibles to their troops. Many flocked to Army Centers to offer their services in the war efforts like digging trenches and joining civil defense force.**

**Indian Army's assurance to its government of capturing Lahore by the evening dashed to ground after stiff resistance on Burki, Chowinda and other major fronts. "The Indian claims of their victory in war were bogus. On ground, there was no evidence to support Indian claims," an American Radio Service Journalist Rai Milan, who witnessed the 1965 war, had recorded in his published-diary report.**

**"However what I saw was only destroyed Indian tanks and huge logistic support units rolling towards their forward area," he wrote. "During my two decades journalistic career, I had never seen such brave, victorious and confident fighting soldiers like the Pakistan Army." While the findings of the Indian government's documents termed India's 1965 attack on Pakistan a blunder of their intelligence and the field commanders, Pakistani side praised morale, bravery and unity of its forces and the nation. "The Pakistan Army,**

**with high morale and backing of the entire nation, stood like an iron wall against Indian onslaught on all fronts,” remarked defence analyst Lt Gen (retd) Naeem Khalid Lodhi on the 17-day 1965 war.**

**“We taught them a lesson as on the Sialkot front, one Indian infantry, one armoured division and an armoured brigade were repulsed by a single infantry division of Pakistan,” he said. “Only at Chawinda-Philora sector, 15 Indian attacks were repulsed.”**

**India had also faced humiliations at Burki sector where 13 of its attacks were completely repulsed, Khalid Lodhi said. “On Kasur front, Pakistan repulsed multiple Indian attacks and captured substantial territory deep inside India.” He said despite numerical superiority, the Indians were humiliated on all fronts at sea, air and ground.**

**“Everybody knows well the skills of M M Alam (the Little Dragon) who downed five Indian jets in less than a minute time out of total nine struck down by him during the war.”**

**Similarly, on Sept 8, 1965, the Pakistan Navy warships including its submarine Ghazi raided Dwarka and bottled up the entire Indian Navy fleet, Lodhi told. Hasan Bhatti, a close relative of**

**Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (NH) from Gujrat, recalled that Aziz Bhatti confronted and engaged enemy's army for five days and nights to defend strategic Bambanwala-Ravi-Bedian (BRB) Canal. "Undaunted by constant fire from enemy's tanks and artillery, Aziz Bhatti successfully defended the canal," Hasan said.**

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